



WOODLAND

Weavers & Spinners Guild

October 2018

Newsletter

Season 2018-2019 No. 2

Next Meeting: **Monday, October 1, 6:30 PM**
Program: **Natural Dying & Farm Life - Lori Evesque**

Greeters and Treaters

Kelly Brandt

Heidi Bukoski

Sunny Dillinger

Jackie Fisher

Pat Pope

Joni Rosen

Vina Ryan

LOCATION

1753 Alpine Ave NW
(GRPD Metro Lodge 97)

From the Editor

Because I am away from my computer and appropriate software at this time, this newsletter will be in a different format. Please note that if you need any forms, such as a Membership Renewal or Workshop/Retreat or Membership Enrichment form, you should look back at your September newsletter where those forms can be found and printed. Similarly, if you want to see the schedule of programs for this season, or a list of rental equipment, or a list of officers of the guild, check the last newsletter (Sept). Thank you for understanding.

Bob Meyering, editor

From the President

Hello!

We're getting closer to cowl season and I'm so ready to stop swatting mosquitos and bust out those handwovens. I'm writing this note after returning home from the first day of ArtPrize. I headed over to the Grand Rapids Art Museum to take a quick peek at Mark Newport's work. He will be presenting to us in May and it was great to see his hand stitched fiber art in person. There are many hours of stitching represented in his embellished textiles that are on display. I encourage you all to go check it out. (You can see photos of Mark's work and hear the podcast I recorded with him on episode 216 at CraftSanity.com.) Feel free to post about other noteworthy ArtPrize entries on our group Facebook page. I'd love to hear your recommendations and responses to the art you see.

Lori Evesque will be our speaker at next month's meeting and our natural dye workshop teacher on Sept. 30. Last month I visited her at the farm she operates with her partner in Allegan County. She gave me the grand tour and I got to see her dye gardens and meet the sheep. Then we recorded a podcast. (You can listen to it by clicking the podcast

link for episode 218 at CraftSanity.com.)

With a background in chemistry and an interest in growing plants to use as natural dyes, her natural dyeing experiments grew more intense when she started demonstrating these techniques at Viking re-enactment events. On Oct. 1, Evesque will talk to us about her farm and her hopes to get West Michigan fiber producers connected so farmers, artists, craftspeople and educators who work with naturally grown supplies can establish and enjoy a sustainable local supply chain.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our October meeting. Please note that we will not be organizing an official group meal before the meetings this year due to low participation at these dinners last year. However, you are all encouraged to call a couple guild friends and gather in small groups and have a fabulous time at the restaurants of your choosing before our meetings. :)

Feel free to email me (jennifer@craftsanity.com) if you have any questions or concerns to discuss.

See you soon,



**Lori Evesque, the speaker for our next meeting,
tends to a sheep at her Natural Cycles Farm in Allegan County.**

Photo credit: Jennifer Ackerman-Haywood for CraftSanity.com

A Note from the Treasurer/Organizer of Retreats & Workshops:

Guild dues continue to be due for about 25% of our membership!!! The absolute final date for paying dues is October 1 (the next guild meeting), Mail your dues payment, with a completed membership form, to Jane Yelvington at the address on the form. You may also fill out the form and bring it with a check to the October meeting.

With regard to workshops and retreats, now is the time to sign up for the fall retreat at the CRC Conference Center. Think mid-fall, loads of color, the lake and beach, great fellowship, plenty of time and space to work on whatever you want, lunch and dinner. A sign up form is attached. Again, you can mail your payment to Jane Yelvington or leave it in the box at the October meeting. The deadline to sign up is Oct 10.

Minutes from 9/10/18 Meeting

Welcome by Guild President Jennifer Ackerman-Haywood

Explanation of format change. During meetings when we have speakers we will have show & tell at 6:30 p.m. and start our program at 7 p.m. followed by a very efficient business meeting.

Reminder to pay for membership. Sixty-nine had paid before the first meeting.

Julia Daniels asked for members to sign up to bring treats to an upcoming meeting. She also showed samples for the summer/winter weaving workshop she will be teaching in March.

Pat Pope shared info on the guild's participation point system and explained involvement goals.

Vice President Pat Zimmer shared info about study groups and gave each group leader a chance to speak. (Spinning, Knitting, & Garment Groups)

New members were welcomed and given a chance to introduce themselves.

Margaret Jager said we had enough Fallasburg volunteers and invited members to attend the event. She also announced that the Textile Arts Market committee would be meeting soon and she would be sending out the meeting details. In the meantime, she told members to make items for the sale.

Judi Pulver needed someone to take over managing the guild equipment. Maggie A. volunteered.

ArtPrize Announcement - Mark Newport our May presenter is exhibiting at the Grand Rapids Art Museum during

ArtPrize.

Marketing Committee Megan Williams spoke about the Open House/Mini Mart the Guild will host on Sun., Nov. 11 from 1-5 p.m. Members can rent their own table to sell their work during the event. The guild will charge a booth fee and sellers will handle their own sales. More details will be coming next month. The next marketing meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 26 at Panera Bread.

Members were reminded that we have a closed Facebook group for members to share and discuss fiber art projects and supplies.

Jane Yelvington gave a treasurers report. We had 126 members last year. 69 had paid prior to our first meeting and there is a need to collect payment from the rest of the members ASAP to create the membership book.

Jane also reminded members that there is an October 13 retreat that costs \$25 for the day. Sign up by Oct. 10. You don't need to be a member to participate.

Mildred K. donated supplies.

SPINNING.

We have a spinning group that meets the 3rd Monday of each month at the home of Jane Yelvington. We start at 7:30. You may leave when you wish but we end by 9:30. You do not have to be a member to attend. Bring a friend or relative. There is no cost. We not only spin but you are welcome to knit, crochet, hand weave or any other small project. The Guild has a wheel you can rent if you want to learn how to spin. There is always at least one person at the spin group who can teach you how to spin if you have interest. We in the past have also diagnosed and made small repairs to wheels. Join us. (*See Paula Stark if you have questions--Ed*)

MICHIGAN LEAGUE OF HANDWEAVERS

We are a member of the Michigan League of Handweavers. It is made up of weaving, spinning and fiber guilds across Michigan as well as a few in neighboring states. Once a year MLH puts in a big learning event. This year it is a conference with two day, one day, or half day seminars on various fiber skills. That is followed by three days of workshops. Each workshop is for the entire three days of intense learning. Also during the conference there is a fashion show, guild exhibition, juried shows and a keynote speaker. You can pick and choose which events you want to attend.

You can find out more information about MLH and the Conference by going the website MLHGUILD.org. There is also a large Trading Post section where you can find used items to buy or post for selling.

The MLH learning opportunities are as good as Convergence, the national fiber conference, or private workshops. If you want to learn more, experiment some or just have a great fiber experience check out the MLH website.

Notes from the Marketing Committee

Our newly formed marketing committee has a few events coming up that we would love for you to participate in.

We are busy getting prepared for our upcoming Guild Open House scheduled to take place on Sunday November 11th from 1-5pm. There are 3 ways to participate in the open house.

1. You can demonstrate your favorite fiber hobby, we're hoping to have a spinning circle and weaving plus whatever else our members want to bring.
2. You can bring a favorite piece that you made for our Show and Tell display.
3. You can sell your fiber goods by setting up a small table display. Most of all, you should attend the open house and tell your friends/family about it. Let's show our community what our guild is all about! More information will be provided at our October meeting or you can email Megan at meganshaywilliams@gmail.com with questions and thoughts.

The marketing committee has also established a series of events to help market your own goods. Are you interested in selling the things you make but not sure where to start? Arrive at our October and November meeting at 6pm and participate in mini workshops and discussions with guild members Megan Williams, Kelly Brandt and Heidi Bukoski. Megan will be leading a Square Up mini workshop where you will learn how to use the Square Up system to accept credit card payments and to keep track of sales. Kelly and Heidi will lead discussions on sales techniques that will start with basic ways to engage customers and can be used in any sales situation.

Finally, we are having our next marketing committee meeting on Wednesday September 26th at 630pm at the Knapp's Corner Panera Bread. Please attend if you are interested in working on the open house or have ideas for other marketing strategies and events! We would love your input on making the guild better.

Handworks 2018: A Show of Craft and Art
Curated by Betsy Ratzsch of Fase 3 (formerly Betsy Ratzsch Pottery)
Saturday, November 3, 2018, 9 am - 4 pm
Forest Hills Presbyterian Church
7495 Cascade Road SE
(Cascade Rd & 36th St)
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546

Celebrating its 5th year, **Handworks: A Show of Craft and Art** has become the premier multi-medium craft and art show in West Michigan! Each exhibiting artist has been hand selected by Betsy Ratzsch, well known in the West Michigan art/craft world from her 20+ years of curating Betsy Ratzsch Pottery in Ada, MI. Exhibitors include pottery, jewelry, handbags, metal & wood sculpture, granite work, oil painting, photography, encaustic, fiber art and more!

Two of our own Woodland Weavers and Spinners Guild members, Mary Ippel and Kathy Forzley, are included in this year's Handworks show! Mary will be featuring her hand woven garments, scarves and towels. Kathy will be featuring hand felted & eco printed pieces including scarves, shawls, framed artwork and other gift items. Plan to attend to meet ALL the artists and take advantage of this early holiday shopping event.

Free admission, convenient parking and live music. It's not to be missed! For more information visit www.handworksada.com

Demonstrations at Fallasburg Arts Festival Sept. 15-16, 2018.

Representatives from the Guild once again entertained and educated the Fallasburg crowd with riveting demonstrations of weaving and spinning, using a variety of equipment and techniques.

The Festival was great this year, largely owing to the good weather (although it did get a bit hot in the Lodge!). We saw a nice steady flow of festival attendees, many of whom were amazed by the skill and talent on display in the demonstration area.

On behalf of Lowell Arts, I would like to send a huge Thank You to Margaret, Paula D., Jocelyn, Gabriela, Arlene, Paula S., Jane F-T and Rachel for their enthusiasm and dedication to this event.

Submitted by Cindy Allen (coordinator of Fallasburg Festival demonstration area)

Meet Cindy Root

[Roving Reporter Paula DeYoung interviewed Cindy Root for this month's newsletter]

PD: Tell us about yourself, your fiber background and history?

Cindy: Married, two sons, two daughters-in-law, three grandsons, two dogs (were three but one passed in June), and three grand-dogs. I am a Conductor for the Coopersville & Marne Railway and I used to call bingo for the Pinery Park Little League. I started sewing when I was about 10. I was taught by my mother. She also taught me to knit by standing in front of me as she was right-handed and I am left-handed. I hadn't knitted for well over 15 years when I got the bug and purchased a pattern, yarn and other supplies. Since then I have knitted almost anything you could imagine.



What fiber genre do you enjoy the most?

I don't have a favorite. I like to learn new things and am always up for a new challenge. I am currently learning to spin. I have also begun experimenting with dyes.

What has inspired you in your personal fiber quest?

I don't know where any inspiration I might have would come from.

Do you have any distinct you perform to help to achieve your end goal?

I have no any distinct or specific steps, stages or requirements that I perform that help to achieve an end goal.

What has been your most interesting project you've created?

I have knitted two surprise jackets. Each time the shoulders didn't match when I finished and I had to tear the

jackets apart and start from the beginning.

What's the best piece of advice you have been given for fiber work?

It will come, just keep making the effort.

Do you have either a 'dream project' you'd love to tackle and/or a 'Fiber Bucket List' and what's on it?

I have neither of those items.

What do you see as the most important part as a fiber artist?

Creativity; putting colors and fibers together.

Is there an end goal for you as a Fiber artist?

I do not have an actual goal. I would like to introduce my grandsons to weaving when they're a little older. I did teach their dad to knit and he knows how to use my sewing machine. I think it would be great if they followed along.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

In five years I hope to be able to warp a loom without any errors and spin yarn that is not "artistic."

What direction would you suggest the guild undertake?

I believe we need to start reaching out to the younger crowd. I'm not certain how to go about that, but youth will carry the art/hobby forward.

Tell us something about yourself that would surprise and/or enlighten us?

I did my student teaching of German in Dublin, Ireland.

What advice do you have for someone in the fiber arts?

There are no mistakes, only changes in artistic direction.

BEAUTY AND THE BUBBLE

I was delighted to sit back at the September Guild meeting and enjoy the enthusiasm and excitement of members. The Guild has almost doubled in size since 9 years ago when I joined. Within that growth there is an increased diversity of age, talents, skills and interests.

I was in awe watching members present the items they had completed over the summer. The skill level is remarkable both for people who are new to fibers arts and those who have honed abilities. I was impressed with the person who stood up and said, this is the first project I have woven on a loom. I was equally impressed with the person who had decided after years of fibers arts to take their skills to a new level. I laughed when one member said I did nothing with fiber over the summer but I love you all.

I enjoyed being there and experiencing the shared love of fiber. Personally what I do is okay but it will never be great. I will improve over time but I do not have great aspirations. Likewise I do not sell what I produce but give it away or decorate my house with my items. I feel like I belong because I love fiber arts like others do even though we may not have the same goals, skills or interests.

There are some fiber projects I will never be interested in doing. I love when someone shares their successes. I have taken classes, for example, in felting. Loved the class and enjoyed my results. I do not have the time or the desire to do more felting. Yet I still ooh and aah at the fascinating items others make.

I recently read that beauty emerges out of love, friendship, loyalty, trust, belonging, meaning and gratitude. I look at the objects that we make as beautiful because they come from that specialness that arises from our collective love of fiber in the Guild. I do not just look at what is made but I feel the pride, warmth and compassion of the person who is the maker. I could seem the same item in a store and not be so moved.

I always feel special and experience beauty when I am involved with the collective being of the Guild. However, I also have a bubble around me that is my self with all my preferences, history, and sensibilities. I used the term bubble because it is a transparent boundary around me that others can see in and I can see out. Sometimes I feel wonderful about myself and what I want and do. I am proud of my hard work learning fiber skills. I assume that my feelings, desires and goals are the same as others.

In fact, my bubble separates me from others. I enjoy my individuality and self. I have uniqueness for which I am proud. I believe my goals are about the right things.

This is where tension exists. I can not be part of the Beauty of the whole and also be thriving in my bubble. There must be a space where the Beauty and my bubble can overlap and co-exist. I do not want it to be an either/or situation but a both/and.

An example--I do not produce fiber items to sell. I respect those in the Guild who are producing items to sell. I

also want to support them with what the Guild can add to their goals. At the same time I want to be equally respected that I just enjoy making things.

I love the people who very highly skilled and drool over their work. I want others to smile and enjoy my work which always has imperfections. I am in my bubble happy as can be when I am weaving or spinning. I also want to be part of the Beauty that emanates from the Guild.

Just one more. Some members love to bake and bring in the tastiest goodies to our meetings. Others just want to pick up a bag or two of goodies from the store. Both are valued members of the Guild because they participated and shared in hospitality.

We are a large and diverse group in so many ways. It is what makes us so special. We are the envy of many other Guilds. I see the future of the Guild as a place where our Beauty as a whole helps us grow in our individual bubbles. And our Bubbles instead of separating us, bring spirit, love, gratitude and relationships to make us more Beautiful .

Beauty and the Bubble. I can have both. This is what makes Woodland Weavers and Spinners Guild so special.

--Paula Stark

Thank You, Fallasburg Fall Festival Volunteers

Five years ago, Paula DeYoung posted a picture of me weaving on a floor loom at the Fallasburg Fall Festival. It was so cold that I was wearing my warmest wool/llama sweater, and we had a fire roaring in the lodge fireplace. This year the weather was almost perfect for being outdoors, although a little on the warm side by mid-afternoon.

Guild member Cindy Allen handles all the volunteer activities at the Festival, and she had the lodge and surrounding area filled with a crew of craftspeople working hard on a variety of art projects. Arlene Tiemeyer demonstrated floor loom weaving and Gabriella Minnhaar Tomatis spun on her Lendrum wheel both days. On Saturday, Jocelyn Shaw worked on her rigid heddle loom, Rachel Turner spun on her vintage wheel, Jane Fabiano Turner wove on her pin looms, and Paula De Young warped and wove on her large inkle loom. On Sunday, Paula Stark brought her new friction-driven spinning wheel, and I wrapped a handspun mixed warp to go on my floor loom at home.

Heidi Bukoski and Kelly Brandt set up their tent on the Festival grounds, as did Ability Weaver,s whose founder is a new member of Woodland Weavers and Spinners. In past years several other members of WWAS have set up tents, too.

Volunteering at the Festival involves a significant investment of time and a willingness to interact with the many people who stop by to see what is going on. Over the years, our guild members have had the opportunity to demonstrate many crafts, and they are always intrigued by the many questions people ask!

TAM Committee Meeting Thursday, October 18

Any guild member interested in working with the Textile Arts Market Steering Committee is invited to attend this meeting which will be held at Biggby Coffee, 4035 Plainfield NE beginning at 6:30 and ending by 8:00 p.m. Much of the work structuring the sale is already in place and functioning, but our time at the meeting will be used to insure that the sale proceeds efficiently and professionally. All guild members are invited to attend the meeting, but attendance is not a requirement for participation in the sale.

(Biggby Coffee is in the same strip mall on Plainfield Avenue at Smith Owen Sewing and Quilting and Frames Unlimited. You can combine errands if you like!)

Questions: Margaret Jager at margaretjager@gmail.com.
